

**FREDERICKSBURG
RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes of March 19, 2009**

The March meeting of the Fredericksburg Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, March 19, 2009 at the Dorothy Hart Community Center. The meeting began at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Brian Baker, Bob Carter, George Foster, Ken Kroko, Barbara Miller-Richards and George Solley. Also in attendance: Robert Antozzi and Patricia Sparks. **Absent:** Commissioners Charles McDaniel, Susan Tyler and Ed Crosslin.

Commissioner Baker welcomed Commissioner Foster to the Recreation Commission.

- I. Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of February 19, 2009 were unanimously approved.
- II. Public Comment:** James Lawrence, 802 Caroline Street, addressed the Commission. He thanked the Commission for letting him speak and he welcomed George Foster to the Commission. James asked the Commissioners to remember to allow for plenty of benches and recycling bins at the Riverfront Park.
- II. Communications from the Director:** The Commissioners reviewed the following reports:
 - A. Financial Report February 2009**
 - B. Sports Notes February-March 2009-**Commissioners agreed to a sub-committee (Ken Kroko and Barbara Miller-Richards) conducting a Competitive Fee Analysis on programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department.
 - C. Field Hockey/Soccer Coaches List**
 - D. Leisure Report March-April 2009 -** Dr. Antozzi informed the Commission that currently the City is working to ensure that the pool complies with a new mandated law, The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act.
 - E. Old Mill Park Report -February 2009**
 - F. Follow-up Report with Attachment- February 19, 2009**
 - G. Letter from Clerk of Council-George Foster**
 - H. Updated Commission List 3/11/09**
- III. Noteworthy Dates:** The Commissioners reviewed upcoming Parks and Recreation programs.

IV. Old Business:

- A. Pathways** – Gordon and Associates has been selected for the Heritage Trail as well as the VCR Trail. Dr. Antozzi reported that Doug Fawcett, Eric Nelson, a Wetlands Technician and one of the Engineers from Gordon and Associates walked on the VCR trail. They discussed the wetlands and other issues regarding the improvements to the pathway in order to add it to the trail system.
- B. Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation Partnership** – Commissioner Baker reported that he had met with Patricia Wolfrey several times to get clarification on the use and lease agreement regarding the Cal Ripken project. The project will be governed by the use agreement, which will allow for alternative usage such as movie night and other activities that will not cause damage or disruption to the fields. The first draft of the lease agreement did state that the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation would be responsible for all the up keep until the time at which they transfer ownership to the City. The agreement does not state a timeline when this would happen. The Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation is looking at a timeline of two to three years. Essentially, that is completion of Phase I and II of the project. The lease would then expire one year after the substantial completion of Phase II, but if that date is during baseball season, the expiration date would be immediately after the season. Commissioner Baker reported that previously the Commission had amended the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation original letter of intent that focused on “at risk kids.” This is a conflict with the mission of Parks and Recreation in that our programs are accessible to everyone. Commissioner Solley stated that this issue had been discussed earlier, and the Foundation agreed that the programs would be accessible to everyone. Commissioner Baker recommended that the sub-committee meet and discuss concerns in reference to mission, programs, management of the fields, and the timeline on the City taking over the maintenance of the fields. The Commission agreed that the Committee clarify and make sure that we have a full understanding of the applicability of the mission to the City. Patricia Wolfey, Mike Ward, Commissioners Baker, Kroko and Foster make up the sub-committee. Commissioner Baker will schedule a meeting. Dr. Antozzi reported that he had met with the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation to discuss the programs for the city schools. Commissioner Miller-Richards will follow up with the School Superintendent.
- C. Riverfront Park** – Commissioner Solley reported that the City now owns all the waterfront property from Charlotte to Hanover Street. Dr. Antozzi has prepared a draft proposal to identify projects for improvements in the interim until the City can afford to develop property into a park.
- D. Commission Vacancies** – One vacancy open.

- E. City Property Initiative Report** – The next meeting is March 25, 2009 at City Hall.
- F. Volunteer Banquet Report** - No funds are allocated for the 2010 Volunteer Banquet. Leave on agenda for further discussion.
- G. Budget Update** – Dr. Antozzi reported that the baseline budget for FY 2010 has been submitted to City Council for their review. The Commission discussed their role in assisting Parks and Recreation staff in the upcoming year. The Commission also discussed financial assistance for the First Night Event. Commissioner Baker asked Commissioner Solley if the EDA funds special events such as First Night. Commissioner Solley stated that in order to receive financial assistance, we would have to be able to establish that the event is an economic plus to the City. Dr. Antozzi stated that there is a section in the EDA grant package that states funds are available for special events.
- H. Proposed Business Changes – Subject to budget changes.**
No current information is available.
- I. Old Mill Park CIP List (Updated)** – The Commissioners reviewed an updated CIP List for Old Mill.
- J. Camping-Old Mill Park** – No new information.
- K. Visionary Planning/Retreat** – The Commission discussed and agreed to continue visionary planning. They discussed the possibility of a retreat for the Commission. Discussion will continue at the April meeting.

VI. New Business:

- A. Dorothy Hart Community Center Repairs** – Dr. Antozzi reported that the support system for the roof in the auditorium is a disaster. Terziotti Engineering recommended closing the auditorium until repairs could be made. The Special Projects Department, under the direction of Bud Kane, worked until the roof was repaired in order to keep the auditorium open. The Fine Arts Exhibit and the Children's Art Show are in the auditorium for the month of March. The repairs are extensive. Currently, Terziotti Engineering is evaluating the damage and cost of repairing or replacing the entire roof over the auditorium.

VII. Commission Concerns and Topics:

Commissioner Miller-Richards stated that she had been approached by residents in reference to moving the camp registration day to a Saturday. Dr. Antozzi reported that we will be closing on Saturdays due to budget constraints. She also asked if residents could register for swimming lessons at the pool instead of the Community Center. Dr. Antozzi stated that due to logistics, swim lesson registrations are held at the Dorothy Hart Community Center.

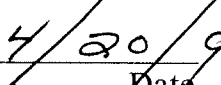
Commissioner Baker complimented the staff on getting the game schedule out for sports activities the first day of play. This is very much appreciated.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Approved by the Recreation Commission



Robert Antozzi



Date

Next Commission Meeting Thursday, April 16, 2009.